

Appl. No. 10/ 613,371
Amdt. Dated March 19, 2006
Reply to Office Action of September 20, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A magnetic recording medium having a magnetic layer with a thickness 50 nm or less formed over a surface of an elongated nonmagnetic support by a vacuum thin film forming technique,

wherein an angle θ which is a growth direction of magnetic particles in a longitudinal cross-section of said magnetic layer with respect to a line normal to said nonmagnetic support, satisfies the following relation:

$$\theta_i - \theta_f \leq 25^\circ$$

where θ_i is an angle of initial growth for said magnetic layer, and θ_f is an angle of final growth for said magnetic layer, and

and further wherein a deposition range is restricted such that a maximum incidence angle α_i and minimum incidence angle α_f satisfies the relationship:

$$\alpha_i - \alpha_f \leq 25^\circ.$$

2. (New) The magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, further including an underlying layer comprised of binder residents and having an average particle diameter of 5 to 30 nm and wherein the density of surface projections is in a range of from 50×10^4 per millimeter squared to 3000×10^4 per millimeter squared.

3. (New) The magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, further wherein the magnetic layer is less than the 50 nm in thickness.